

Admission to the Bar by the General Bar Examination

A CHECKLIST FOR THE APPLICANT

1. **Character Investigation.** File the **application** (including a certification of your college education and a fully completed character questionnaire) and appropriate fee to initiate the character and fitness investigation.
2. **Seat Number for the Examination.** After filing the application (or contemporaneously), you may file the **Original Petition** (your certification of your law school graduation) and associated fee to receive a seat number to take a particular Bar examination.
3. **Examination.** Take and pass the Bar Examination, which is offered in February and July of each year.
4. **Law School Transcript.** You must arrange to have your law school submit to the State Board of Law Examiners a certified copy of your law school transcript reflecting the date of your graduation. The Board must receive the transcript not later than September 1 following a July examination and not later than March 15 following a February examination.
5. **Personal Interview.** Complete the personal interview with a member of the Character Committee and receive a favorable recommendation as to character and fitness.
6. **Affirmation.** Included with the results mailed to each passer is an affirmation form requiring the applicant to disclose any changes in information reported on the Character Questionnaire (Part II of the Bar application). The affirmation requires current home and business contact information. The affirmation must be returned within 10 days after the date that examination results are mailed, even if there are no changes to report.
7. **Character Approval.** Receive a favorable recommendation by the State Board of Law Examiners.
8. **Mandatory Professionalism Course.** Attend the mandatory Professionalism Course presented by the Maryland State Bar Association. There is a course fee, and examination passers must attend the course prior to being admitted to the Bar.
9. **Licensing.** Take the prescribed oath or affirmation for admission in open court at the Court of Appeals of Maryland. There is a fee associated with the preparation of the Bar Admission certificate. The Clerk's office of the Court of Appeals will issue the certificate to the candidate following the admission ceremony. Once admitted, you are entitled to practice in all of the state courts in Maryland.

You must take the oath of admission not later than 24 months after the date that the Court of Appeals ratifies the Board's report of the examination results.